



Instructions from Roger Moore to Block Captains

Dear Sir: -

Please tell your Block Captain to see each man under their control before bed time to night and urge them to use their influence to see that no threats of any kind are made against negroes in their neighborhood.

The City Government is willing and desirous to investigate any special cases reported to it.

By order of the Mayor.

Roger Moore.

J.E. Mathews.

Peace Restored

Still using the newspapers to their advantage, the Democrats, through the official arms of the mayor and Board of Aldermen, sought to end blatant violations of the law in the name of white supremacy. Waddell moved to stop the unauthorized use of weapons by vigilantes. To stop these men and to provide official condemnation of the violence for outsiders, Waddell issued a proclamation that was printed in the papers: "The comparatively few persons in this city who seem disposed to abuse the opportunity of carrying arms which recent events afforded and who are doing some very foolish talking and acting are notified that no further turbulence or disorderly conduct will be tolerated." Waddell's threat carried the backing of the police, and he stated that "no armed patrol will be allowed to appear on the streets except those authorized by the chief of police." Further, the papers echoed the desire of leaders to end the banishment campaign when it noted that "the boys are

administration's commitment to peace, Waddell held the first session of city court on November 14 where several whites were tried, found guilty, and fined for disorderly conduct. One African-American, Primus Bowen, had been arrested for "having too much oil in his possession for an ordinary peaceable negro" but was released when it was discovered that he was employed as a lamplighter.⁸⁷

Some black citizens, hoping to return to the appearances of normalcy, tried to return to work amid armed patrols that searched every black man who crossed their

⁸⁶ Hayden referenced another proclamation in which he claimed that Waddell also issued this declaration – "Self-Appointed vigilantes are responsible for much of this misery because of the indiscriminate way they have gone about banishing objectionable persons; and in some instances unscrupulous whites have gratified their personal spite in dealing with the negroes." Hayden, *WLI*, 107; *Wilmington Messenger*, November 12, 1898; *Morning Star* (Wilmington), November 12, 1898.

⁸⁷ *Morning Star* (Wilmington), November 15, 1898.